

HORIUCHI -- 10/813,114  
Client/Matter: 009270-0308987

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet take-out apparatus comprising:  
a sheet-feeding member on which sheets are placed;  
an air spout unit to spout out air toward a right or left side of a front portion of said sheets with respect to a taking-out direction of said sheets;  
a take-out unit to take out a sheet from said sheets in ~~a predetermined~~ the taking-out direction; and  
a depression member to depress said sheets against said sheet-feeding member on a rear edge-side portion of said sheets located behind a central portion ~~portion~~ of said sheets with respect to the taking-out direction ~~of said take-out unit.~~
2. (Currently Amended) A sheet take-out apparatus according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein said air spout unit is an air nozzle provided in a vicinity of said take-out unit.
3. (Currently Amended) A sheet take-out apparatus according to ~~Claim~~ claim 2, wherein said air spout unit includes first and second air nozzles provided on both sides of the sheets placed on said sheet-feeding member.
4. (Currently Amended) A sheet take-out apparatus comprising; according to Claim 3,  
a sheet feeding member on which sheets are placed;  
an air spout unit to spout air toward said sheets placed on said sheet-feeding member;  
a take-out unit to take out a sheet from said sheets in a predetermined taking-out direction; and  
a depression member to depress said sheets against said sheet-feeding member on a rear portion of said sheets located behind a central portion of said sheets with respect to the taking-out direction.  
wherein said air spout unit ~~further~~ includes a first, second and third air nozzle nozzles spouting out air toward both sides of said sheets, ~~provided on a rear edge-side of the sheets~~

HORIUCHI -- 10/813,114  
Client/Matter: 009270-0308987

that is farther from said take-out unit than a place of said first air nozzle and second air nozzles being provided in a vicinity of said take-out unit, said third air nozzle being provided rearwardly of said first and second air nozzles with respect to the taking-out direction.

5. (Currently Amended) A sheet take-out apparatus comprising:  
a sheet-feeding member on which sheets are placed;  
an air spout unit to spout out air toward a right or left side of a front portion of said sheets with respect to a taking-out direction of said sheets depressed by said depression member;  
a take-out unit to take out a sheet from said sheets ~~toward which said air spout unit spouts the air in the taking-out direction;~~ and  
an air jet nozzle to depress said sheets against said sheet-feeding member on a rear ~~edge-side portion of said sheets~~ located behind a central ~~portion~~ portion of said sheets with respect to a the taking-out direction of said take-out unit.

6. (Currently Amended) A sheet take-out apparatus according to ~~Claim~~ claim 5, wherein a pointed end of said air jet nozzle is provided on a rear edge-side portion of said sheets that is farther from said take-out unit than the center of said sheets placed on said sheet-feeding member.

7. (Currently Amended) A sheet take-out apparatus comprising:  
a sheet-feeding member on which sheets are placed;  
an air spout unit to spout out air toward a right or left side of a front portion of said sheets with respect to a taking-out direction of said sheets depressed by said depression member; and  
a take-out unit having a take-out rotor to take out a top sheet and a reverse rotation rotor that rotates in reverse with respect to said take-out rotor and returns excessive sheets taken from said sheets to said sheet-feeding member; and  
a depression member to depress said sheets against said sheet-feeding member on a rear ~~edge-side portion of said sheets~~ located behind a central ~~portion~~ portion of said sheets with respect to a the taking-out direction of said take-out unit.

HORIUCHI -- 10/813,114  
Client/Matter: 009270-0308987

8. (Currently Amended) A sheet take-out apparatus according to ~~Claim~~ claim 7, wherein said take-out rotor and said reverse rotation rotor each are provided with surfaces in which suction holes are defined to suck a sheet from said sheets.

9. (Currently Amended) A sheet take-out apparatus according to ~~Claim~~ claim 8, wherein a friction coefficient of said surface of said take-out rotor is larger than that of said surface of said reverse rotation rotor.

10. (Currently Amended) A sheet take-out apparatus comprising:  
a sheet-feeding member on which sheets are placed;  
guide members provided on both sides of the ~~sheet~~ sheets placed on said sheet-feeding member to adjust a position of said sheets in a width direction thereof;  
an air spout unit to spout out air toward a right or left side of a front portion of said sheets with respect to a taking-out direction of said sheets ~~depressed by said depression member~~;  
a take-out unit to take out a sheet from said sheets ~~toward which the air is spouted in the taking-out direction~~; and  
a depression member to depress said sheets against said sheet-feeding member on a ~~rear-edge side~~ portion of said sheets located behind a central ~~portion~~ portion of said sheets with respect to a the taking-out direction of said take-out unit.

11. (Currently Amended) A sheet take-out apparatus according to ~~Claim~~ claim 8, wherein said air spout unit is attached to said guide members.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of taking out a sheet from stacked sheets comprising:  
placing stacked sheets on a sheet-feeding member;  
spouting out air toward a right or left side of a front portion of said stacked bundle of sheets with respect to a taking-out direction of said sheets;  
taking out a sheet from said stacked bundle of sheets ~~toward which the air is spouted in the taking-out direction~~; and

HORIUCHI - 10/813,114  
Client/Matter: 009270-0308987

depressing said stacked bundle of sheets against said sheet-feeding member on a rear edge-side portion of said sheets located behind a central ~~portion~~ portion of said depressed stacked sheets with respect to a the taking-out direction of said ~~take-out~~ unit.